

NOTES ON ZOOLOGY OF THE MACLAY-COAST IN
NEW GUINEA.

II. (1)

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ON A NEW SPECIES OF MACROPUS: *MACROPUS TIBOL*.

(Plate XIX.)

The only kangaroo, which came into my hands during my stay at the Maclay-Coast, was a small *Macropus*, which I now describe as *Macropus tibol*, keeping as a name for the species the name under which the animal is known amongst the natives (2). *Macropus tibol* appears to be very scarce on that coast; during my prolonged stay there, I succeeded in obtaining only *two* specimens of it—one, shot by myself in the forest in 1872 and the second, brought to me in 1876, by a native whose dog discovered and killed it in the dense scrub not far from the beach. Both were adult males and of about the same size. (3)

The *principal measurements* taken the same day on which I obtained the second specimen in 1876, (a young ♂), were the following:—

From the tip of the nose to the base of the tail	330 mm.	13 in.
Length of the tail	235 mm.	9,3
From the tip of the nose to the occiput	88 mm.	3,5
Fore limb	about 121 mm.	4,8
Hind limb	about 238 mm.	9,3
From the head to the end of the tail of the 4th toe ...	119 mm.	4,7
Length of the ear	34 mm.	1,4
Circumference of the base of the tail	about 50 mm.	2,0
From knee to knee over the back	about 260 mm.	10,3

(1) The *first* "Note on Zoology of the Maclay-Coast" has been published in Proceed. Lin. Soc. of N.S.W., Vol. IX., Part, 3, p. 713.

(2) I mean the natives speaking the dialect of Bongu.

(3) Another proof of the scarcity of this animal is the fact, that amongst the bone implements used by the natives (who, before my arrival at the Maclay-Coast in 1871 were not acquainted with the use of any metal) only very few indeed were made of bones of *M. tibol*.

Colour and character of the fur.—The general colour chocolate brown, dulled browner at the base; fur close, soft to the touch; the head and down the back, the arms and legs of a deeper chocolate tint, inclining to reddish on the feet and hands. Chin, throat, and under surface, the inner parts of the flanks, ashy. Beginning at the knee and extending in the direction of the femur towards the base of the tail is noticeable an indistinct oblique stripe of a lighter tint. On the face examined from the side, a narrow line of a light tint is also perceivable, which runs from below the nostril along the upper lip to below the orbit. A narrow line of paler hair on the inner margins of the ears. Hair on the limbs shorter and stiffer. Tail with short soft hair above, with very short hair almost bare below.

The general habitus of the body resembles in many respects the smaller kind of *Macropi*, known in Australia under the vulgar name of "*Pademelons*."

The examination of fig. 2 (representing the head of the animal in profile and natural size), and of fig. 3 (showing the muzzle from the front), will give a better idea of the muzzle, divided in the middle, the distribution of the conspicuous hair, the size of the eyes, ears, and their relative position than a long description.

The muzzle is bare, covered with fine black scales, the margins of the underlip is also free of hair.

The *hands* compared with the feet (fig. 4 and fig. 5) are small; the fingers thin with long, narrow, dark reddish brown (blackish on the base paler at the tip) nails. The internal side of the hands are covered with fine, flat scales of different size.

The scales on the under surface of the foot are larger than those of the hand and near to the heels are worn down, and the skin there appears glossy and flocky.

Tail. The upper portion of the tail only, as already mentioned, is covered with hair.

The *skull* of *M. tibol* examined from above (Fig. 7), shows a very round cranium and no ridges in the Parietalia; examined from the side (Fig. 8), the greatest height of the skull corresponds

to the fronto-parietal suture and makes the bending of the premaxillary region downwards very perceivable. (A line joining the cutting edges of the molars and premolar extended forward would pass *over* the base of the incisor.) The apex of the angular process of the inferior margin of the Zygoma corresponds to the anterior cusps of the second molar.

The *transversal ridges* of the palate are 9 in number, and their relative position is shown on fig. 6.

There are two *palatine foramina* (of which one is very much larger than the other) and several smaller on each side.

Dentition.

3	1	3	
—, i.	—, pm.	—, m.	(the 4th molar just appearing in both jaws)
1	1	3	

The shape and size (in proportion to the molars) of the *upper incisors* present the most important character of the species. Compared with the dentition of other species of the same genus, *Macropus Thetidis* shows some resemblance to the incisors of *Macropus tibol* (1). The fold of the second lateral incisor is very much behind and is fully seen only when examined from below (fig. 11). The premolars are not longer than the first molars.

At the Australian Museum, I had the opportunity of examining a stuffed specimen of a kangaroo from New Ireland, *Macropus Brownii* Ramsay (2).

The dentition of *Macropus Brownii* is somewhat similar (in the relative size of the incisors) to that of *Macropus Tibol*, however,

(1) *Waterhouse*. Marsupiata, p. 144.

(2) This kangaroo has been first described by Mr. E. P. Ramsay in a paper read before the Linnean Society of New South Wales, in October 1876. (Description of a New Species of Halmaturus from New Ireland, by E. P. Ramsay. Proceed. Linnean Society of N S. W., Vol. I., p. 307) as *Halmaturus Brownii*. Another collection made in the same place and at the same time as the one which has been purchased by the Australian Museum, having been sent to London, Mr. E. R. Alston, not knowing about the description of Mr. Ramsay, described again the same kangaroo, as *Macropus lugens* (E. R. Alston, On the Rodents and Marsupials collected by Rev. G. Brown in Duke of York Island, New Britain and New Ireland. Proceeding Zoolog. Soc., 1877, p. 123, pl. XIX.) Although agreeing with the opinion that the animal in question is a *Macropus*, I keep the species name (*Brownii*) under which it was described *first*.

to what extent it is impossible for me to form an opinion, on account of the absence of the second lateral incisor in the specimen of *Macropus Brownii* in the Australian Museum. (1)

The *Macropus tibol* is also completely different from all the Macropi of the south coast of New Guinea that have been as yet described.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

MACROPUS TIBOL. Mcl.

(All the figures, with the exception of Fig. 1 and Fig. 11, *natural size*.)

Fig. 1.—Sketch of the side view of the *Macropus tibol*, partly after a sketch from life and partly from a photograph of a stuffed specimen. (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the natural size.)

Fig. 2.—Side view of the head of the same animal, short time after death.

Fig. 3.—Front view of the muzzle.

Fig. 4.—Under surface of the hand.

Fig. 5.—Plantar surface of the foot.

Fig. 6.—Palatine folds.

Fig. 7.—Skull from above.

Fig. 8.—Side view of the same.

Fig. 9.—Dentition of the upper jaw.

Fig. 10.—Dentition of the under jaw.

Fig. 11.—View of the upper incisor from below. *Twice* the natural size.

(1) About the dentition of *M. Brownii* Mr. Alston says:—"The third upper incisor is but little longer than the second, and has the external fold close to its posterior border." *E. R. Alston*, loc. cit. Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 123.